

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 08033 050923Z

17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 022562

O 050810Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3757

S E C R E T BANGKOK 8033

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MASS, TH

SUBJ: CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE MAP AND MASF ASSETS

DEPT PASS INFO SECDEF AND CINCPAC

SUMMARY: DISPOSITION OF VIETNAMESE MASF ASSETS CONTINUES TO DOMINATE PUBLIC ATTENTION HERE, BUT RTG, ITS SPINE OBVIOUSLY STIFFENED BY THAI MILITARY, SEEMS TO HAVE PULLED ITSELF TOGETHER AND IS ADMITTING THAT ASSETS BELONG TO U.S. WHILE THIS TAKES SOME HEAT OFF, REMOVAL FROM THAILAND OF F-5'S, A-37'S, ETC., SHOULD CONTINUE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE CONSISTENT WITH SAFE HANDLING. OUTLOADING OPERATIONS WILL BE SUSPENDED DURING MEDIA VISIT TO UTAPAO OF SEVERAL HOURS DURATION MAY 6, AT INSISTENCE OF SUPREME COMMAND. END SUMMARY.

1. THE QUESTION OF DISPOSITION OF THE VIETNAMESE MASF ASSETS IN THAILAND, ALMOST ENTIRELY AIRCRAFT, CONTINUES TO DOMINATE THE HEADLINES HERE. HANOI AND THE PRG ARE USING THESE ASSETS TO APPLY PRESSURE, EXPLOITING OF CLEARLY EMERGENT THAI DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM. ACCORDING TO PRESS, FOREIGN MINISTER OF PRG HAS SENT NOTE TO THAI FOREIGN MINISTER LAYING CLAIM TO VIETNAMESE MASF ASSETS BROUGHT TO THAILAND. THIS DEMAND, ACCORDING PRESS, WAS REINFORCED BY A RENEWED INTERVENTION FROM HANOI, WHICH REPORTEDLY HAS "FORMALLY REQUESTED" RETURN OF PLANES BY THAILAND TO SOUTH VIETNAM, POINTING

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 08033 050923Z

OUT THAT ISSUE COULD AFFECT BANGKOK-HANOI RELATIONS.

SIDE BY SIDE WITH THIS STORY ON FRONT PAGE OF BANGKOK  
"THE NATION" IS REPORT THAT THAI NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
IS RECOMMENDING IMMEDIATE THAI RECOGNITION OF NORTH VIETNAM  
AND HINTING THAT RECOGNITION OF THE NEW REGIME IN  
SAIGON IS ALSO IMMINENT.

2. DESPITE THESE DEVELOPMENTS, RTG SEEMS TO HAVE PULLED ITSELF  
TOGETHER AND DECIDED TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE ON

ISSUE OF DISPOSITION OF VN MASF ASSETS. PRIME MINISTER  
KUKRIT PRAMOT TOLD THE PRESS YESTERDAY THAT THAILAND  
WOULD "HAND OVER" THESE ASSETS TO THE U.S. WHILE A FINAL  
DECISION ON THAILAND'S POSITION TOWARDS THESE ASSETS IS  
REPORTEDLY TO BE MADE AT A CABINET MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 6,  
IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE THAI MILITARY, THROUGH SUPREME  
COMMAND, HAS SUCCEEDED IN SUPPRESSING FOR THE MOMENT ANY  
CONSIDERATION OF HANDING OVER VIETNAMESE OR  
CAMBODIAN ASSETS TO NEW COMMUNIST REGIMES. IN ACHIEVING  
THIS RESULT, SUPREME COMMAND WAS UNDOUBTEDLY GIVEN A KEY  
INSTRUMENT IN THE FORM OF OUR DECISION TO OFFER CONSIDERABLE  
ASSETS TO THE THAI. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, WE CONVEYED  
NEWS OF THIS TO KRIANGSAK IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF  
AUTHORITY FROM WASHINGTON.

3. DISPOSITION OF THE FORMER VIETNAMESE ASSETS IS LIKELY  
TO REMAIN A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE HERE. IF HANOI AND SAIGON  
REACT SHARPLY, THOSE THAI WHO ARE PRESSING MOST URGENTLY  
TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THEM CAN BE EXPECTED TO BELABOR  
THE RTG HEAVILY. THE RTG, WHILE WE EXPECT IT TO STICK TO  
ITS CURRENT POSITION, WILL SEEK, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE,  
TO PUT THE BLAME ON US. IT THEREFORE CONTINUES TO BE  
IMPORTANT THAT WE REMOVE THOSE ASSETS THAT WE ARE TAKING  
OUT OF THAILAND AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE, CONSISTENT WITH  
THEIR CONSERVATION.

4. IN RESPONSE TO EXTREME PRESSURE FROM THE THAI PRESS  
ACCOMPANIED BY MUCH FLAG-WAVING, KRIANGSAK FEELS IT  
ESSENTIAL THAT A MEDIA VISIT TO UTAPAO BE CONDUCTED  
TOMORROW (MAY 6). THIS MEDIA VISIT, IN WHICH WE WILL  
ALSO INCLUDE FOREIGN PRESS, IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORTING  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BANGKO 08033 050923Z

THE DEPARTURE OF THE FIRST PLANELOAD OF CAMBODIAN  
REFUGEES AT APPROXIMATELY 1100 LOCAL TIME. KRIANGSAK  
WISHES MOVEMENT OF THE OUTBOUND VNAF AIRCRAFT TO BE  
SUSPENDED DURING THE DURATION OF THE MEDIA VISIT AND WE  
AGREE THAT THIS IS A GOOD IDEA.

5. THE PRESS WILL ARRIVE AT UTAPAO AT 0900 LOCAL TIME MAY 6  
AND WILL REMAIN FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE HOURS. DURING THAT

TIME, THERE SHOULD BE NO VISIBLE MOVEMENT OR PROCESSING  
OF VNAF F-5'S, A-37'S OR OTHER VNAF AIRCRAFT BEING  
TAKEN OUT OF THAILAND. PROCESSING CAN BE RESUMED AS  
SOON AS THE MEDIA DEPART FROM THE BASE.  
MASTERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF AND CINCPAC.

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO08033  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X3  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750156-0669  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750579/aaaacucq.tel  
**Line Count:** 121  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE MAP AND MASF ASSETS DEPT PASS INFO SECDEF AND CINCPAC  
**TAGS:** MASS, TH, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006